

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY East Germany REPORT
SUBJECT Military Activities at Altengrabow DATE DISTR. 19 July 1954
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
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The attached report on Soviet military activities at the Altengrabow training area from 28 April to 11 May 1954, is forwarded to you for information.

Enclosure: 1 report (4 pages)

To: Army (loan--3 weeks)
ORR (Retention)

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GERMANY (Russian Zone)

MILITARY

ALTENGRABOW Training Area (28 Apr - 11 May 54)

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1. Summary

- (a) Troops with heavy equipment began to move into the Training Area on 28 Apr 54 with the bulk of movements during the period 3-6 May 54. All encampments are now occupied.
- (b) By 11 May 54, 15-18000 all ranks with approx 800 vehicles were estimated to be stationed in the Training Area.
- (c) Apart from the 20 x 122 mm Field guns M31/37 and 4 x 152 mm Gun howitzers M37 in the NORD Lager, the following heavy weapons have been identified: 18 x 122 mm Field howitzers M38; 40 x 37 mm AA guns; one 76.2 mm Field A/tk gun and 22 160 mm Mortars.
- (d) 6 x 6 APCs have, for the first time, been identified in this Training Area. 6 unidentified guns of an estimated calibre of 2-3 cm arrived, together with a detachment of 12 x 37 mm AA guns. From the description given, these might be 20 or 25 mm LAA guns on a two-wheeled carriage with pneumatic tyres.

2. Arrivals

- (a) At 0830 hrs on 28 Apr 54, by rail at ALTENGRABOW, 14 x 122 mm Field howitzers M38, towed by ZIS 151s, one 76.2 mm Field A/tk gun, towed by a ZIS 151, 250 all ranks and barrack stores on 12 GAS 63s and ZIS 5s, 5 LCVs with ammunition, 2 Workshop vehicles on Studebaker chassis and 3 Field kitchens. 50X1-HUM
Detraining was completed by 0945 hrs and the detachment moved into the SOMMERLAGER. 50X1-HUM
- (b) At 1200 hrs on 4 May 54, by road from the direction of LUBARS, into the SOMMERLAGER, three 6 x 6 APCs 50X1-HUM
- (c) On the morning of 4 May 54, by rail at ALTENGRABOW Station, a transport with troops vehicles and heavy equipment. Detraining had been completed by 1145 hrs.
- (d) At 0730 hrs on 5 May 54, moved into the LAGER III, coming from the direction of ALTENGRABOW Station: 16 x 37 mm AA guns towed by ZIS 151s, which also carried 250-300 all ranks; 23 GAS 63s with barrack stores and ammunition, 2 Workshop vehicles on ZIS 151 chassis and 3 Field kitchens. 50X1-HUM
- (f) At 1100 hrs on 5 May 54, moved into the SOMMERLAGER: 22 160 mm Mortars.
- (g) At 1215 hrs on 6 May 54, a transport arrived at ALTENGRABOW Station.
- (h) At 1400 hrs on 6 May 54, by rail at ALTENGRABOW, a train with 13 G-wagons with troops and barrack stores and 12 x 37 mm AA guns towed by ZIS 151s, 1 ambulance, 2 Field kitchens, 2 Workshop vehicles on Studebaker chassis, two 6 x 6 APCs and 15-20 LCVs of various types.

6 of the LCVs towed unidentified guns of an estimated calibre of 20-30 mm on 2-wheeled carriage with pneumatic tyres. The

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ROOM

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gun was [redacted] 50X1-HUM
pointing to the rear and parallel with the ground. The area of the breech block and possible shield was covered with a tarpaulin. The following dimensions were estimated at a distance of approx 150 m from the equipment: overall length 2-2.5 m; height 1.20 - 1.40 m, wheel base 1.50 - 1.80 m, size of tyres 6 x 16.

3. Disposition of troops

(a) NORDLAGER

These barracks continued to be occupied by approx 1500 all ranks of the RATHENOW Unit with 20 x 122 mm Field Guns M31/37 and 7 x 152 mm Medium Gun Howitzers M37, as well as approx 2500 all ranks of the MAGDEBURG Unit, apparently without heavy weapons.

(b) SOMMERLAGER

This encampment is now fairly full, though the only heavy weapons which have been identified here are 18 122 mm Field Howitzers M38, 12 x 37 mm AA guns, one 76.2 mm Field A/tk gun and 22 x 160 mm Mortars.

(c) LAGER III

This encampment appears to be fully occupied. A total of 28 x 37 mm AA guns have been identified here.

(d) ROSENKRUG

This encampment has been occupied since 4 May 54. On this date the car E9-42-16 from the Area Trading Unit SIROBABA at MAGDEBURG called here.

(e) Camp Kommandatura

This office, situated in the SOMMERLAGER, has issued passes to the 27 Germans employed in the Training Area (this includes SATO installations and Ketch). The stamp on these passes shows [redacted] all holders have to enter the SOMMERLAGER through the Guard Post ("Wache I") immediately to the NORTH of the NORDLAGER, where a list with their names and addresses is held.

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5. General traffic - ALTENGRABOW

27 May 54:

ZIS 5
Car
Studebaker

4 May 54:

GAS 63
"
Studebakers
ZIS 5
Car
"

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5 May 54:

ZIS 5

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6 May 54:

ZIS 5
Studebaker
GAS 63
Car
ZIS 5
"

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7 May 54:

ZIS 150
ZIS 5
GAS 63
ZIS 5
GAS 63
ZIS 5
"
Studebaker
ZIS 5
"
Studebaker
ZIS 5
GAS 63

6. General traffic - ZIESAR

27 Apr 54:

ZIS 5

28 Apr 54:

ZIS 5
ZIS 5s

29 Apr 54:

ZIS 5
Jeep
"
ZIS 5
"

1 May 54:

Studebaker
Car

2 May 54:

GAS 63
Jeep
ZIS 5

4 May 54:

Studebaker
GAS 63
"
Lorry
Car
Lorry carrying barrack stores.
ZIS 5
GAS 63

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5 May 54:

Studebaker - driving instruction.
ZIS 5
Jeep
ZIS 5s

6 May 54:

ZIS 5s
GAS 63
" laden with tyres to BOCKNITZ.
Fire-fighting vehicle.
Workshop vehicle.
ZIS 5
"
Studebaker

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30 Apr 54:

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7 May 54:

Jeep
ZIS 5

ZIS 5
GAS 63
ZIS 5
GAS 63
ZIS 5
Small lorry
ZIS 5
Car - Mercedes
Car
Workshop vehicle

8 May 54:

✱

Studebaker
ZIS 5
"
Car

9 May 54:

Jeep
ZIS 5
"
GAS 63

10 May 54:

Studebaker - driving instruction
"
"
"
ZIS 5s
"
Studebakers
"
Small lorry
ZIS 5 with MT spares, 2 officers
and 2 ORs with black/red sbds to
BUCKNITZ.

11 May 54:

Opel car with 5 women and a child
on a shopping trip.
ZIS 150 with an officer and 5 ORs
with black/red sbds.
GAS 63

✱ At 1400 hrs on 8 May 54, 3 lorries, each towing one of the new unidentified LAA guns of estimated calibre 20-30 mm, from the direction of BRANDENBURG towards ALTENGRABOW (identical with the equipment described in para 2(h) above.

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